THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) While Government are aware of press reports to this effects,, there is no confirmed information in this regard. Government, however, keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India'security.

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद् द्वारा विदेश भेजे गये प्रतिनिधि

4459. श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :
श्री कपिल वर्मा :
श्री शिव कुमार सिंह :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद् द्वारा यूरोप और अमरीका तथा अन्य अफ्रीकी, केरेबियन और पड़ौसी देशों को कितने प्रतिनिधि भेजे गये ;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान इस परिषद् द्वारा कितने साहित्यकारों और कलाकारों को विदेश भेजा गया तथा उन्हें क्या-क्या सुविधाएं प्रदान की गई ; और

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान इस परिषद् द्वारा, भाषावार, कितनी पुस्तकें प्रकाशित की गई ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव) : (क) उन प्रतिनिधियों यानी भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद् के अधिकारियों की संख्या नीचे दी गई है जो पिछले तीन वर्षों में विदेश गये थे :–

यूरोप और अमरीका	12
अफ्रीका	6
पड़ौसी देश	4
केरिबियायी देश	6

(ख) इस अवधि के दौरान 264 साहित्यकारों और कलाकारों को विदेश भेजा गया था । इनमें मंचीय कलाकार शामिल नहीं हैं। उन्हें अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय किराया दिया गया था तथा विदेशों में स्थानीय आतिथ्य की व्यवस्था की गई थी।

(ग) अंग्रेजी	10
हिन्दी	1
फ्रांसिसी	8
स्पेनी	1
अरबी	1
कुल	21

U.S. Television report on Pakistan-Iran nuclear cooperation

4460. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state':

(a) whether Government are aware of U.S. Television report that Pakistan besides acquiring its own capability to make nuclear weapon is also helping Iran in that direction;

(b) if so, what is Government's own assessment on its information and

(c) whether Government have also seen the report that Islamabad and Tehran are having secret discussions about cooperation in nuclear Field ; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (c) Government have seen a report carries by the American Television network T.B.S. on April 18,

1988 suggesting that Pakistan may be assisting Iran in acquiring nuclear weapons capability. A similiar report was carried by the Sunday Observer of June 12, 1988 the veracity of which was denied by both Governments. Government are aware of Pakistan's highly advance nuclear weapons programme but have received no confirmation of reports concerning nuclear cooperation between Pakistan and Iran. Government continuously monitor all developments which have a bearing on our national security.

SAARC Foreign Ministers meeting

4461. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRIMATI SURYA-KANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL :
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what were the decisions of SAARC Foreign Ministers Conference held at Kathmandu on August llth and 12th, 1988 ;

(b) whether the venue of the SAARC summit has been shifted from Colombo to Islamabad ; and

(c) whether the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi will visit Islamabad tci attend the summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. *(See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Statement

The SAARC Council of Ministers at its Fifth Session held at Kathmandu from 11-12th August, 1988 reviewed progress in the implementation of Integrated programme of Action.

The Council decided that :

(i) The Agreement on Establishing the SAARC Food Security Reserve would come into force with effect from 12th August, 1988 ;

(it) the proposal to include Education as an area of co-operation should be examined in depth by member countries ;

(iii) the Non-governmental Organisations consisting of nationals of member countries, based in the region and operating in agreed areas of co-operation should increasingly participate in SAARC events and be encouraged to organise activities at their own initiative ;

(iv) any country in the region subscribing to the objectives and principles of the SWRC Charter may be admitted as a member- of the Association by a unanimous decision of the Heal of State or Government ;

(v) with the prior approval of the Standing Committee, the Secretary General may contact organisations with similiar aims and objectives for specific purposes

(vi) the offer of the Government of Pakistan to host the Fourth SAARC Summit in Islamabad be accepted ; and

(vii) that the Council will hold its sixth session in Islamabad prior to the Fourth SAARC Summit.